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TAPOL REPORT

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This morning two East Timorese, Fernando Araujo and Joao Freitas da Camara went on trial in Jakarta. Both defendants are tried under subversion charges with a maximum sentence of death penalty. The two are defended by the LBH Defence Team under Luhut Pangaribuan. In this first session the court listened to the official charges of the prosecution. In the case of Fernando Araujo he was accused of involvement in the demonstrations of 19 November in Jakarta and his contacts with the outside world to inform about the human rights situation in East Timor. Chief Prosecutor Makallo read a 150 page document against Fernando Araujo while Prosecutor Simandjuntak read a similar lenghthy indictment against Joao Freitas da Camara. The main accusation against da Camara is his involvement in organising the 19 November demonstration in Jakarta involving East Timorese students from many Indonesian universities. Although the trials in Jakarta are open for public, the heavy presence of military troops around the District Court of Central Jakarta discouraged many from attending the trials. Several foreign correspondents were seen

Two other trials against Timorese are due to start tomorrow in the same District Court. At the same time the two scheduled trials in Dili, East Timor against Francisco Miranda Branco and Gregorio da Cunha Saldanha have been adjourned, for unclear reasons, till the end of the month.

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